

6

**WASHINGTON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL**

615 Second Avenue, Suite 380  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone (206) 622-8103  
Fax (206) 622-8113

Olympia (360) 357-6548  
wec@wecprotects.org  
www.wecprotects.org



---

**PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER**

---

\*Sent via fax and email

February 27, 2006

Ms. Sally Butts, Project Manager  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263  
[ForestPracticesHCP.nwr@noaa.gov](mailto:ForestPracticesHCP.nwr@noaa.gov)  
Fax: 360-753-9518

NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI)  
SSMC3 Rm. 15603  
1315 East-West Hwy  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[nepa.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:nepa.comments@noaa.gov)  
Fax: 301-713-0585

Re: Comments on the State of Washington's application for take authorization under the federal Endangered Species Act, including comments on the Final Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation Agreement, and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Ms. Butts,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State of Washington's Final Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Implementation Agreement, and Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the related Federal actions under consideration: 1) the issuance of Incidental Take Permits by NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively the Services) under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or 2) NOAA Fisheries' issuance of a limit on the application of the prohibition against take under section 4(d) of the ESA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's consideration of similar rulemaking under section 4(d).

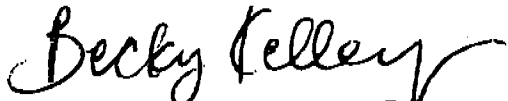
These comments are submitted on behalf of the Washington Environmental Council (WEC). Please include these comments as part of the permanent record.

On March 4, 2000, WEC submitted detailed comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the proposed "Forest Management Limit on the Take Prohibitions" in the proposed Section 4(d) Rules for 14 threatened populations of west coast salmon and steelhead, and the associated Environmental Assessments. These comments conveyed WEC's policy and technical

concerns with the Forests and Fish Agreement, and those concerns remain relevant today as regards the Final Forest Practices HCP and potential limits regarding forest management to be included in NOAA Fisheries or US Fish and Wildlife Service 4(d) rules. We incorporate our March 4, 2000 comments by reference here, as comments on the Final Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation Agreement, and FEIS.

As currently proposed, the Final Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan is incomplete and there is no guarantee that it will be funded or function as the State now asserts. The present rules are not based on the best available science. Nor will they ensure the survival and recovery of listed species. The HCP is not sufficiently protective of aquatic species and natural resources to warrant the 50-year legal assurances it proposes to provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Kelley".

Becky Kelley, Campaign Director  
Washington Environmental Council